

# USDA Bans Geraniums from Kenya Due to *Ralstonia*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has announced that it is banning geraniums from Kenya due to the detection of *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2.

*Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2, which is extremely destructive to potatoes, was recently discovered in greenhouses in several States. The pathogen arrived on geranium shipments from Kenya. APHIS quarantined these affected greenhouses and will ensure the safe destruction of these products and the disinfection of the greenhouses.

APHIS is actively conducting a traceback program to ensure that all suspect material is located, evaluated, and destroyed if necessary. These actions are necessary to ensure that no additional infected plants enter and remain in the United States. APHIS will continue to work cooperatively with Kenya to resolve this issue and make every effort to ensure that shipments are suspended no longer than necessary. APHIS is also working to ensure that U.S. potatoes and other solanaceous plants are safeguarded from this pathogen, while minimizing the impact on affected greenhouses.

*Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 is one of the causative agents of brown rot, also known as bacterial wilt. This pathogen can spread from geraniums to potatoes and other solanaceous plants. It moves readily by water, where it can spread to reservoir hosts such as stinging nettle, climbing nightshade and tomatoes.

For more information, please visit the Plant Protection and Quarantine Web site at [www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq).

**Note to stakeholders:** Stakeholder announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Access the APHIS home page by pointing your Web browser to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>. For additional information on this topic, contact Meghan Thomas at (301)734-3266 or [meghan.k.thomas@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:meghan.k.thomas@aphis.usda.gov).

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